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# The Green Mile

## Cyclists and pedestrians take to Washington Street to raise awareness of bike paths and sidewalks

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Duxbury is well-known for its open green spaces, areas like Bay Farm Field, or the town forest. There are plenty of opportunities to walk, but what about bike paths?

The Sidewalks and Bike Path Committee held an event called "The Green Mile" that encouraged residents to walk or ride their bikes the length of Washington Street to promote the group's dual purpose - more paths and sidewalks

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Members of the Bike Path and Sidewalk Committee, Ride Phat and the Duxbury Police gathered at the start of the Green Mile event Saturday.

for Duxbury.

About 150 riders and walkers carried bright green balloons to show that they were a part of the Green Mile event. Part of Washington Street does have sidewalks. The event was timed to coincide with Mass. Bike Week. Mass. Bike is a state organization promoting bicycle access and safety, as well as encouraging ridership. More information can be found at [massbike.org](http://massbike.org).

"We're trying to narrow it down to areas with higher traffic, and skinnier roads," Sullivan said when asked about future sidewalk locations. "The room is sparse for two SUVs passing each other."

The committee has had mixed success promoting its goals over the past several years. They did lead a successful push to have sidewalks installed along Chestnut Street (that was a town project, any sidewalks along a state highway such as 3A would have to go through the state) but a push to make a bike trail along Tremont Street fell flat after the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, which owns the forest along Tremont, opposed the project.

Sullivan said that there were bike paths in Duxbury as

part of an old railway system, but that has been broken up as parts of the land have been sold to private owners.

"We're considering all and any options," he said.

Sullivan said an ideal bike path in town would take riders to a destination, like Hall's Corner, or would link two popular places in town.

"We don't have paths in areas we want people to gather," said committee member Nancy Johnson. "We want to promote community, and we want to provide safe healthy recreation and alternative transportation."

More bike paths would reduce traffic, she added.

The event was also co-sponsored by Ride Phat, an organization in Duxbury that is seeking to promote better helmet use in young bikers and skaters. (The name stands for protect your head at all times.) Representatives from that group were handing out coupons to people "caught" wearing a helmet that can be redeemed at local restaurants.

The Sidewalk and Bike Paths Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

"We're happy to take input from the public," Sullivan said.

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